



TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) average annual unemployment rate for 2001 was 3.7 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This is three-tenths of a percentage point above the 2000 annual average rate of 3.4 percent. The number of employed persons increased by 10,960, or 4.8 percent, from 2000 and the number of unemployed individuals increased by 1,154, or 14.4 percent, year-over-year. The combination of the increasing number of employed and the increasing number of unemployed led to an increase of 12,114 individuals, or 5.1 percent, in the *Civilian Labor Force* from 2000 to 2001. *Civilian Labor Force* data for all counties are located at the end of the newsletter in the FYI section, starting on page 35.

Year-over-year, the Boise City MSA *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 2,268 or 1.0 percent. *Goods-Producing Industries* accounted for only 30.5 percent of those jobs with an annual average increase of 691 jobs. Job increases were noted in *Construction & Mining* with an increase of 916 jobs, *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manufacturing* increased by 701 jobs, and *Printing, Publishing & Allied Products Manufacturing* and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* increased by 22 and 10 jobs year-over-year, respectively. *Goods-Producing Industries* that experienced job losses year-over-year included *Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes Manufacturing* and *Other Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing*, losing 186 and 133 jobs, respectively; *Fabricated Metal Products Manufacturing* lost 62 jobs, *Industrial & Communications Machinery & Computer Equipment* lost 287 jobs, *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* lost 166 jobs, *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* lost 57 jobs, and *Food & Kindred Products* lost 90 jobs year-over-year, with *Canned Cured & Frozen Foods Manufacturing* losing 111 jobs in 2001.

Of all new jobs created in 2001, 69.5 percent occurred in *Service-Producing In-*

Treasure Valley Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

Boise MSA, Ada and Canyon Counties	Projected 2001	2000	% Change From Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE			
Unadjusted			
Civilian Labor Force	248,392	236,278	5.1
Unemployment	9,168	8,015	14.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.7	3.4	
Total Employment	239,224	228,264	4.8
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK			
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	231,151	228,883	1.0
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	54,055	53,363	1.3
Mining & Construction	17,097	16,181	5.7
Manufacturing	36,958	37,183	-0.6
Durable Goods	28,537	28,704	-0.6
Lumber & Wood Products	3,143	3,442	-8.7
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	790	976	-19.1
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,353	2,466	-4.6
Fabricated Metal Products	1,196	1,258	-4.9
Ind. & Comm. Mach. & Computer Equip.	7,796	8,083	-3.6
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	12,788	12,087	5.8
Transportation Equipment	1,778	1,941	-8.4
Other Durable Goods	1,836	1,893	-3.0
Nondurable Goods	8,421	8,479	-0.7
Food Products	5,588	5,678	-1.6
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,656	1,767	-6.3
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	1,952	1,930	1.2
Other Nondurable Goods	881	871	1.2
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	177,096	175,520	0.9
Trans, Comm, & Public Util	12,347	11,823	4.4
Transportation	6,889	6,519	5.7
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Services	5,457	5,304	2.9
Trade	56,961	55,397	2.8
Wholesale Trade	13,193	13,371	-1.3
Durable Goods	8,038	8,050	-0.2
Nondurable Goods	5,155	5,321	-3.1
Retail Trade	43,768	42,026	4.1
General Merchandise Stores	5,872	4,911	19.6
Foods Stores	7,506	7,805	-3.8
Eating & Drinking Places	15,401	14,814	4.0
Other Retail Trade	14,990	14,496	3.4
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	11,223	11,200	0.2
Services	61,516	63,900	-3.7
Business Services	14,887	15,548	-4.3
Health Services	18,203	16,577	9.8
Hospitals	8,508	7,474	13.8
Eng., Acct., Res., Mngmt., & Related	4,897	4,507	8.7
Other Services	23,528	27,267	-13.7
Government	35,049	33,201	5.6
Federal Government	5,581	5,157	8.2
State Government	12,830	12,130	5.8
Education	4,141	3,668	12.9
Administration	8,689	8,462	2.7
Local Government	16,638	15,913	4.6
Education	10,815	10,425	3.7
Administration	5,823	5,488	6.1

* Preliminary Estimate, includes December 1999-November 2000 figures.

**Estimates include all full- or part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

dustries. These industries created 1,576 new jobs from 2000 to 2001 with *Transportation Services and Communications & Electricity, Gas & Sanitary Services* increasing 371 and 153 jobs, respectively. *Durable Goods and Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* both lost 12 and 165 jobs from 2000 to 2001. Overall, *Retail Trade* gained 1,742 jobs year-over-year, with job gains in *General Merchandise Stores* (961), *Eating & Drinking Places* (586), and *Other Retail Trade* (494) outpacing job losses in *Food Stores* (-299), creating a net increase in the number of jobs. *Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate* gained only 24 jobs in 2001. *Services* lost 2,384 jobs over the year with job losses in *Other Services* (-3,739) and *Business Services* (-661) outpacing job gains in *Health Services* (1,626) and *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services* to create a net job loss over the year. All aspects of *Government* experienced job gains over the year with *Federal Government* increasing 423 jobs. *State Government* gained 473 jobs in *Education* and 227 jobs in *Administration*, and *Local Government* gained 390 jobs in *Education* and 335 jobs in *Administration* year-over-year.

SPECIAL TOPICS

Construction in 2001

Treasure Valley Table 2 and Treasure Valley Figure 1 show the nine-month cumulative comparison of new dwelling units and total permits for southwest Idaho in 2000 and 2001. The city of Boise showed the largest number of new dwellings built in 2001 with 1,511 units, including 642 single-family dwelling units and 871 multi-family dwelling units. This is an increase of 64.2 percent from 2000 when, for the same time period, a total of 920 dwelling units were built in Boise, including 748 single-family dwellings and 172 multi-family dwelling units. Weiser and Payette had the largest percentage gains in residential units year-over-year with 150.0 percent and 132.0 percent, respectively. The areas that experienced a decrease in construction year-over-year were Nampa, Emmett, Mountain Home, and Valley County with decreases of 13.2 percent, 4.2 percent, 15.7 percent, and 3.8 percent, respectively.

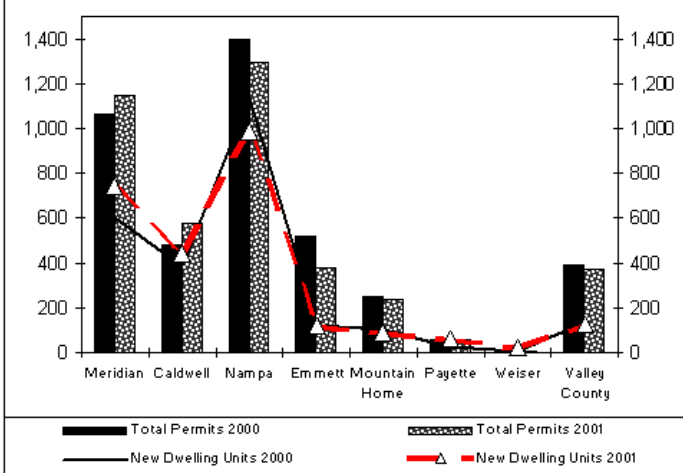
Table 2 also shows the total number of construction permits allowed in southwest Idaho from January through September 2000 and 2001. The city of Boise had the largest number of permits approved with 12,060 permits approved in 2001. This is a decrease of 976 permits or 7.5 percent year-over-year. Other areas that experienced a decrease in approved building permits included Nampa, Emmett, Mountain Home, Payette, Weiser, and Valley County with decreases of 7.4 percent, 27.6 percent, 5.2 percent, 8.1 percent, 26.7 percent, and 6.6 percent, respectively. Meridian and Caldwell were the only areas to experience gains in approved permits year-over-year with Meridian increasing 7.9 percent or 84 permits and Caldwell increasing 18.8 percent or 90 permits over the same period in 2000. The construction per-

Treasure Valley Table 2:
Southwest Idaho Construction Update--9 Month Cumulative

New Dwelling Units	2000	2001	change	% change
Boise	920	1,511	591	64.2%
Meridian	600	739	139	23.2%
Caldwell	379	439	60	15.8%
Nampa	1,133	983	-150	-13.2%
Emmett	120	115	-5	-4.2%
Mountain Home	102	86	-16	-15.7%
Payette	25	58	33	132.0%
Weiser	10	25	15	150.0%
Valley County	132	127	-5	-3.8%
Total Permits	2000	2001	change	% change
Boise	13,036	12,060	-976	-7.5%
Meridian	1,062	1,146	84	7.9%
Caldwell	480	570	90	18.8%
Nampa	1,396	1,292	-104	-7.4%
Emmett	515	373	-142	-27.6%
Mountain Home	251	238	-13	-5.2%
Payette	62	57	-5	-8.1%
Weiser	15	11	-4	-26.7%
Valley County	393	367	-26	-6.6%

Construction statistics originated in Wells Fargo's Idaho Construction Report Volume 48 Number 9.

Treasure Valley Figure 1: Southwest Idaho Construction Update — 9 months cumulative (2000 & 2001), excluding Boise

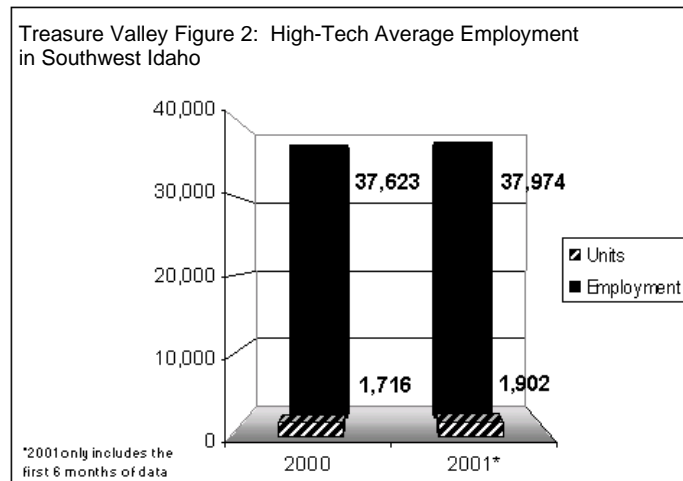


mits accounted for new residential, new nonresidential, and additions, alterations, and repairs of existing buildings.

High Tech in 2001

In 2001 there were a number of layoffs publicized in the Treasure Valley. Treasure Valley Figure 2 (page 15) shows the change in number of establishments and employment in all high-tech industries in Southwest Idaho. This figure indicates an increase in the number of jobs in the High-Tech sector of the Treasure Valley; however,

the 2001 figure is based only on the first six months of 2001. Several events occurred in the high-tech sector, specifically the electronics industry in the six months that followed. Overall, more than 3,000 jobs were lost in the electronics industry in the Treasure Valley in 2001. The following companies had permanent layoffs at some time during the year: Micronpc.com, MCMS, Hewlett-Packard, Extended Systems, Jabil Circuit, Inc., ZiLOG, SCP Global Technologies, and Pix Tech.



Hewlett-Packard (HP) sold its VeriFone part of the business to Gores Technology; the sale allowed HP to focus on core competencies. HP started a \$6.25 million building/remodeling project in June that expanded HP's inkjet cartridge manufacturing business. HP and Compaq announced a \$20.3 billion merger in early September that would create a giant manufacturer of personal computers, computer servers, printers, and high-tech services; several investors and analysts have expressed skepticism about the merger, and regulatory and shareholder approval has not been made. HP also purchased the outstanding shares of Indigo, a Dutch industrial and commercial printing system company, for \$629 million. New products that were released to the public in 2001 include the Open-View software suite that helps customers with their e-services, the Netaction software suite that allows customers to develop, integrate, and launch their e-service businesses; the HP Digital Press 6600, and the HP LaserJet 1000.

Micronpc.com and Intel were working together in early 2001 to create a new line of networking solutions that combines Micron's TransPort line of notebook computers and Intel's high-performance wireless LAN products to deliver tailored solutions to each business. The company was purchased by the Gores Technology Group in mid-2001; it posted its first profit in two years for third quarter 2001. The company launched the NetFRAME server product line that is focused for business and government users. MicronPC closed its Meridian call center and moved those employees to its Nampa

manufacturing site; the consolidation will save the company money.

Micron Electronics and Interland (its web-hosting partner) shareholders approved a merger between the two companies in August, which led to Micron Electronics' name change to Interland, and the company headquarters was moved from Nampa to Atlanta, Georgia. The new company focuses solely on web hosting and related Internet services.

MCMS was awarded a \$49 million "debtor-in-possession" financial package by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in October that allows MCMS to continue day-to-day operations during the bankruptcy proceedings as well as provides approved bidding procedures for the sale of MCMS assets. The company also announced plans to sell its Nampa plant to a Massachusetts electronics manufacturing services company—Manufacturers' Services Limited. A federal bankruptcy court approved the sale of MCMS to a Wisconsin company, Plexus, who paid MCMS \$45 million and acquired most of MCMS' assets including the Nampa location; proceeds from the sale were used to pay creditors' claims in MCMS' Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing. The sale closed in January 2002.

Micron Technology was chosen by Microsoft to provide memory chips for its new "XBOX" video game console. The company also introduced a new low power memory solution that will extend battery life in many mobile and wireless applications; the new BATRAMs are designed to consume less power than the SDRAMs. Micron Technology and DuPont Photomasks started construction on a 90,000-square-foot, \$150 million facility in Boise that will manufacture photomasks. Micron opened a \$200 million research and development facility in November, which is one of the most technologically advanced, state-of-the-art plants in the world. Micron Technology and Hynix Semiconductor released information in early December that a merger between the two companies was possible. If the merger occurs, the resulting company would be the world's largest memory maker, providing about half of the semiconductor memory demands in the industry. In late December, Micron announced plans to buy Toshiba Corporation's DRAM business, Dominion; if the acquisition is approved, the purchase would make Micron the undisputed world leader in producing DRAM memory chips. The news was received with positive reviews from analysts and industry spokespersons.

Extended Systems licensed its Bluetooth and Infrared Data Association software-development kits to HP and NEC, which makes nearly 85 companies that are now licensed by Extended Systems to use the Bluetooth technology. In mid-May, the company made a joint announcement with Palm, Inc. that terminated the acquisition of Extended Systems by Palm; worsening economic conditions in the industry was cited as one of the rea-

sons for the failed acquisition. Extended Systems sold its printing business to Troy Group, Inc. of Irvine, CA.

ZiLOG announced the restructuring of its company in late 2000, laying off 11 employees at the Nampa plant in early 2001. The company announced plans to sell the Nampa fabrication plant in late May. ZiLOG consolidated its two Nampa fabrication plants and test operations, which led to layoffs at the company and is part of the company's strategy to reduce its worldwide workforce by 14 percent by the end of 2001.

Knosys, Inc. changed its name to ProClarity Corporation in mid-2001. The ProClarity software product line, introduced in January 1999, helps companies analyze business data that are collected and added to databases, allowing decision-makers to see trends, patterns, and exceptions in large groups of data.

Cypress Semiconductor Corporation acquired Boise-based In-System Design for \$45 million in October.

Preco Electronics announced a \$10 million contract with Symbol Technologies in early January 2001. Preco sent approximately 12,000 mobile computing system units to the New York company, which used the units inside maintenance and service vehicles throughout North America.

SCP Global Technologies completed its major expansion project in mid-2001, which included the addition of a new customer demonstration lab and an expansion of its manufacturing and training facilities.

PixTech, a local small display panel manufacturer, closed its Boise operations in August. The company employed 68 people at the 73,000-square-foot plant located near Broadway Avenue and Federal Way; all of the employees will be laid off.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- The American Electronics Association (AeA) and the Nasdaq Stock Market ranked the Boise City MSA second in "high-tech job growth in a small city" from 1993 to 1998 in a report released in early 2001. Of every 1,000 private sector workers in the area, high-tech firms employ 112 of them. The area also ranked 9th in percentage of high-tech workers per 1,000 jobs, 12th in high-tech job growth among U.S. cities of all sizes, 26th in households with a computer (59 percent), and 26th in household access to the Internet (47 percent).
- For the second consecutive year, Forbes Magazine ranked the Boise City MSA as one of the 10 best places to do business and advance a career in America. The Boise City MSA ranked seventh in 2001, compared to fifth in 2000. The magazine ranks 200 metropolitan regions by eight business categories including wage and salary growth, job growth, and high-tech clustering.

- Boise State University, the Boise Metro Economic Development Council (BMEDC), and a consortium of call center managers throughout the Treasure Valley have announced a joint venture in creating a course at BSU to train call center workers. This group hopes that the course may reduce the amount of turnover in the call center industry, which is estimated to be at least 25 percent. Nearly 8,000 people in the Treasure Valley work in a call center environment. The four-week session will introduce students to call center basics that will include tours of various call centers, guest speakers, and simulations. Cost for the basic class is \$99. More advanced classes also may be made available.
- St. Luke's Meridian Medical Center opened its 24-hour emergency room service and full-service hospital in 2001. The expanded facility at 520 South Eagle Road includes an obstetrics ward and surgery rooms along with 62 beds. The number of beds is expected to increase to 146 upon completion of the fifth and sixth floors. St. Luke's Meridian will serve patients who live in west Boise, Meridian, Eagle, Kuna, and even Canyon County. Because Meridian's population more than tripled in the 1990s, demand for expanded services at the location occurred more quickly than originally expected by hospital administrators. St. Luke's is already planning to build a second hospital building at the site. St. Luke's Regional Medical Center (SLRMC) in Boise, announced plans to build a 940-space, five-level parking garage, and a three to four story medical office building south of Warm Springs Avenue, west of Broadway Avenue in Boise. The project is scheduled to start in late 2002 or early 2003. West Valley Medical Center and St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center opened the Caldwell Cancer Treatment Center as a joint venture in Caldwell in February 2001. The Caldwell Cancer Treatment Center is located on Commercial Way and offers the most technologically advanced radiation treatment in the state. There is a staff of fifteen and patients will be treated mostly on an outpatient basis.
- In addition to the layoffs that Boise Cascade had in Emmett and Cascade in 2001, the company announced the rebranding of its name in early October. The company will retain its full name for legal activities, including financial trading, but will adopt "Boise" for its products and marketing materials. The company stated that the change would have a visual presentation that does a better job of telling what the company is and what it does. The company is very diversified, and the office products and building materials distribution divisions account for more than half of the company's total sales. The name changeover will not be completed until spring 2002. The company also started construction of a \$65

million wood-plastic composite manufacturing plant in Elma, Washington. Construction started in April and will be completed by May 2002.

- Albertson's Inc. announced Larry Johnston as its new chairman and chief executive officer in May. In August, the company cut many white-collar jobs at the Boise headquarters and throughout the nation. The job cuts are part of reorganization plans that were announced by the company in July. This reorganization plan included closing 165 stores, cutting between 15 and 20 percent of its managerial and administrative jobs above store level, and consolidating the six regional offices into two; these changes could cut annual expenses by \$250 million. The company closed two of its corporate Sav-On stores in the Treasure Valley; one located on Bogus Basin Road and the other on Chinden Boulevard. Albertson's opened a new 58,000-square-foot store on Vista Avenue and Overland Road in December that offers expanded services and a substation for the Boise Police Department. The store replaces an older, smaller store on the same site that was demolished.
- Washington Group International (WGI) filed for bankruptcy in May 2001, which was the company's second bankruptcy filing in five years. Company officials hoped that by seeking Chapter 11 protection, the company could make a debt-to-equity swap to stay in business. The U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Reno, Nevada, approved WGI's bankruptcy reorganization plan; stock will be divided between lenders and unsecured creditors, while former shareholders will receive nothing. Financing was finalized in December. WGI also announced that it laid off 30 employees in Boise as part of its efforts to eliminate 8,000 jobs worldwide. The company now has about 30,000 employees worldwide and about 600 locally.
- Restaurants that opened in the Boise area in 2001 include River Rock Alehouse, Louie's Pizza and Italian Restaurant in Meridian, Smoky Mountain Pizza and Pasta in Meridian, Mackenzie River Pizza, Arby's, Panda Express, Applebee's, International House of Pancakes (IHOP) in the Crossroads shopping plaza in Meridian, Sonic Drive-In (with two more stores planned for the Boise area, and one more in Garden City). Pizza Hut announced four new stores in the area (Boise, Kuna, Star, and Meridian). In downtown Boise, the following restaurants opened in 2001: Tuscany, the Dublin Up, the Manhattan Grill, Schott's Steaks & Chops, BarTime, M's Wine/Martini Bar, Banja Luka, Thai Cuisine, Conundrum, Zutto (moved from 8th and Idaho to a larger venue on Main Street), Addie's Place (replaced the Teriyaki Palace on 5th and Main), Ha' Penny Bridge, Happy Fish Sushi & Martini Bar (near the 8th Street Marketplace). Port of Subs and Cold Stone Creamery opened in the Family Center off of Federal Way; Jack in the Box opened a franchise in the Five Mile Plaza.
- Other businesses that opened in Boise in 2001 include US Drug Lab, Inc., Western Power Sports, De-Marcos, Les Schwab, Rent-A-Center, Fred Meyer, the Affordable Pet Clinic, Hairmasters, World Lighting, and Edward Jones. Alaska Airlines opened a call center in Boise; CJ Banks, Pro Image, and Coldwater Creek opened outlets in the Boise Towne Square Mall; Decibel Products, an Allen Telecom company, opened a customer service center in Boise. Also opening in Boise in 2001 were State Cellular, Aaron Brother's Art Mart, American Geotechnics, Inc., Tait & Associates, Syringa Networks, American Auto Wholesale & Starr Tooling (which moved from Canyon County to Boise), Diamond Development Center, Ashton's Framing & Fine Art, MelloDee's Child Center, Big 5 Sporting Goods, Crosstie Productions, and Europe Delicious Bakery & Grocery. Fred Meyer, Starbucks, and Washington Mutual opened new stores in the Franklin Shopping Center.
- Businesses that moved or expanded in 2001 include Hummel Architects, PA, which built a new two-story building on Bogus Basin Road in Boise; the Idanha Hotel, which finished its makeover project that included remodeling the entire first floor and changing the hotel to apartments; the Furniture Outlet Superstore moved into the old Fred Meyer building at Orchard and Franklin Roads in Boise; Western Electronics moved to its new \$4.7 million, 100,000-square-foot building in Meridian, along with DBSI Realty Corporation; George's Cycles & Fitness closed its store on Broadway and opened a new store on Front Street; Desert Sage Restaurant moved from its downtown Boise location to Park Center; Red Lobster closed its restaurant on Broadway and opened a new one near Boise Towne Square; the Collister Shopping Center underwent a facelift—Koppel's Browzeville moved to the shopping center; and United Heritage Mutual life Insurance Company moved its headquarters from Nampa to Meridian.
- Several businesses made announcements of future moves and/or expansions including Goldy's Breakfast Bistro is opening a restaurant in Hyde Park, Eagle Nursery announced plans to move to the northeast corner of State and Park Lane, SWIRE Coca-Cola announced a 55,000-square-foot addition to its current facility in Meridian, construction started on the Boise Airport Expansion Project, the Idaho Statehouse is partway through a renovation project, and the long-anticipated Boise Tower broke ground in downtown Boise in 2001. Other businesses that an-

nounced openings in 2002 include DL Evans Bank, Radioshack, and Jack in the Box. Hilton Garden Inn planned a 150-room hotel in Eagle; the project will start in April 2002 and be completed by January 2003.

- The following businesses opened in Meridian in 2001: Songbird Espresso; Pintura Hair & Nail Salon; Mountain West Bank; Wal-Mart, which opened a supercenter in the Crossroads shopping plaza; Perfect Image Beauty Supply and Gifts; Summers Funeral Home; Syringa Bank; Meridian Cycle and Accessories; Rachel's Place; Mountain West Bank; B&E Beauty Supply & Tanning. The Five-Mile Creek Pathway—a path for walkers, runners, bicyclists, and rollerbladers—opened to the public, and the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) moved from downtown Boise to a new office in Meridian.
- Business activity in Eagle in 2001 included the openings of First American Title Company and Eagle Vacuum & Home Décor; the Eagle Historical Museum opened in the old library; Washington Federal Saving & Loan moved to a new building in October; Cassidy Plaza, a \$1 million office building facility, opened in Eagle; the Eagle United Methodist Church expansion project was completed in 2001; Pioneer Federal Credit Union announced the opening of a branch in Eagle in 2002; and Mike and Joy Kauffman announced plans for "The Winery at Eagle Knoll," which is scheduled to open in Summer 2002.
- Business happenings in other areas of Ada County include the opening of the Firehouse Diner in Kuna and the opening of Mira Plaza, a shopping center on the corner of State Street and Mira in Star. Businesses that opened in the plaza include Pizza Hut and the Lucky Star Coffee Shop.
- Business closings that occurred in Ada County include Wells Fargo, which closed 10 branches as a result of the First-Security/Wells Fargo merger; Home Base, Burger n' Brew on Broadway (in early 2001, a Buddy's restaurant was announced to take over the space, but no further information has been announced); the Sandpiper Restaurant (Tuscany restaurant was opened in its place); Noodles closed downtown (the Dublin Up opened in its place); Roper's closed its store in downtown Boise (DeMarco's moved in); Faust; Michael Fisher Jewelers; McClure's Machine Shop; Office Depot in the Capital Village shopping center near Capitol Boulevard and University Drive; and Doughty's Bistro. The IMAX Theater closed in the Edwards Theater Complex in Boise, and Loew's Cineplex Odeon closed its theaters in the 8th Street Marketplace, Northgate, Towne Square, and Nampa. The Nampa theater was purchased by the Reel Theaters and

Northgate is now open as a discount theater; the other two theaters remain closed.

- Quality Properties Development opened a new office building on the corner of Garrity and Flamingo in Nampa. The North Ridge Professional Center is an office building for several businesses. The site also includes a Phillips 66 convenience store and a McDonalds restaurant.
- The Karcher Mall renovation and expansion project was completed in 2001. The main entrance, center court, hallway, ceiling, floors, parking lot, and other entrances were renovated in the project. Several new stores opened in and near Karcher Mall in 2001 including Ross Dress for Less, Bath & Body Works, Musicland, U.S. Factory Outlets, Mrs. Fields' Cookies, and BC&T Prints. JoAnn Fabrics moved to a larger store in the mall, Pic n' Save changed its name to Big Lots, and the Nampa Police Department opened a substation in the Edwards Theater Complex near Karcher Mall in Nampa. Announcements were made earlier in the year regarding plans to open an Olive Garden and a Golden Corral in the vicinity, but no additional information has been available.
- Other business happenings in Nampa in 2001 include the openings of Karcher AutoParts, Maverick on the corner of Franklin and Karcher, Zamzows' second Nampa location, Idaho Camera, NAPA Auto Parts, Mr. Dollar, Studio III, Horizon Paint, Vintage Floral, Treasure Valley Mortgage Consulting, Summit Mortgage Corporation, and a Washington Trust Bank branch. DJ Wholesale Framers Supply opened 16,000-square feet of warehouse space, Leavitt & Associates Engineers opened an office, Intermountain Community Bancorp opened a financial business center, and Harvest Classic moved to a new bakery facility in Nampa. The MicronPC outlet moved to Nampa from Boise. The Warhawk Air Museum opened at its new location at the Nampa Municipal Airport in 2001.
- West Valley Centre, a 40,000-square-foot retail shopping center between Nampa and Caldwell, has finished construction. Sears moved from Karcher Mall to this location. Several other stores will be opening in the shopping center in the near future.
- Business happenings in Caldwell in the past year include the opening of several new businesses including KFC, A&W, Family Mortgage of Idaho, Soshea's Café, Hertz Car Sales, Wells Fargo, Clinica Santa Maria, Walgreen, Northwest Staffing Resources, and Fiesta Guadalajara. Orphan Annie's reopened after a fire destroyed much of the building in 2000. Businesses that moved included: Pet Haven Thrift Store, which moved to 619 Main Street in Caldwell; the Canyon County Sheriff and Police Departments, which moved to a new building in Cald-

well; and the Western Canyon Youth Center, which moved to a new location in Caldwell. The Armadillo Bar-B-Q & Steakhouse opened another restaurant in Middleton.

- Acquisitions and mergers that occurred in Canyon County in 2001 included Canandaigua Wine Co., Inc., which acquired Ste. Chapelle Winery in a \$52 million deal with Corus Brands, Inc. The new company will allow Ste. Chapelle to build more brand awareness throughout the northwestern region of the United States. Environmental Oil of Nampa acquired Artesian Oil Recovery, Inc., and Lithia Motors purchased Lanny Berg Chevrolet in Caldwell for \$1.7 million.
- The Premier Building, the first commercial building at Canyon Park near the Idaho Center, opened its doors in late 2000. The building is located at 5700 East Franklin Road and was developed as a one-stop financial destination point. Premier Alliance and the law firm of White, Peterson, Pruss, Morrow, and Gigray are the major tenants of the building. Other businesses located in the building are Premier Alliance Property and Casualty, Premier Alliance Health Insurance, Troy Peltzer and Associates, attorney John Bujak, Impact Technology, CPA Dave Vauk, Rowe and Associates, Title One, and a real estate company. Plans for the second phase of construction at Canyon Park were announced in early spring 2001. The new building will be 26,000-square feet and will be designed to look similar to the Premier Building in that it is meant to be a one-stop center for professional services; it will be located on the east side of the Premier Building. Construction began in late spring 2001.
- Construction projects that started and/or completed in Canyon County include the homeless shelter in Nampa, which started in July 2001, and the 7,000-square-foot expansion of Paul's Market in Caldwell. The Canyon County Animal Shelter was constructed and the animals were moved to the new building, which is located on Graye Lane in Caldwell. The Nampa Municipal Airport began its expansion project. The Idaho State School and Hospital started its \$9 million expansion and renovation project. Nampa First Church of Nazarene completed its 57,000-square-foot expansion of the Family Live Center in Nampa, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints opened a church in Nampa.
- Businesses that closed in Canyon County in 2001 include the JC Penney Catalog Service Center, Hehr International, Intermountain Outdoor Sports in Karcher Mall, the Plum Tree Restaurant and Furniture Store, and Broadway Market—a grocery store in Melba. Loews Cineplex Odeon in Nampa closed but was purchased by the Reel Theaters and re-

opened later; First Security Bank in Nampa closed but reopened as a Mountain West Bank branch.

Adams County

- The New Meadows United Methodist Church is host to a food bank that opened in Summer 2001. Seven local businesses helped collect anonymous cash donations to pay for the food, which was collected during March and April. The food bank is affiliated with the Idaho Foodbank Warehouse, Inc.
- Idaho Power permanently closed its Cambridge operations center in Summer 2001. The construction crew moved to Boise, and there are still two line personnel available to respond to outages and emergencies.
- The Adams County Courthouse Restoration Committee received \$22,500 in grants that will be used for a feasibility study on the restoration of the historic county courthouse.
- In Summer 2001, Governor Dirk Kempthorne declared Adams County and Payette County drought disaster areas. The declaration makes it possible for water right holders in the county to apply to the Idaho Department of Water Resources for expedited processing of temporary changes in points of water diversion.
- The Council City Council planned the construction of two new buildings at the Council Business Park. Construction should begin in spring 2002. Western Timber opened an additional manufacturing facility in the business park in late 2001.
- The New Meadows Valley Emergency Service Building opened. The facility was a joint venture by the Meadows Valley Ambulance Service and the Meadows Valley Rural Fire Protection District. It will house four fire trucks and two ambulances.
- Other business happenings in Adams County in 2001 include the opening of The Sawtooth Café, the Community House and Thrift Store, Out of the Box, Office Express in New Meadows, and Wilson's West Dance Club in Council. Construction of the New Meadows Senior Bus Garage was completed. Evergreen Forest Products moved the kiln-drying portion of its facility to Kooskia, resulting in 34 people losing their jobs.

Boise County

- Bogus Basin Ski Resort constructed a new electric line over the summer. The new line will deliver power to the mountain to add new, faster chairlifts and help expand resort operations. Other improvements scheduled for the resort were improving lodges and skier services, upgrading the Superior chairlift from a double to a high-speed quad, and adding a second high-speed quad chairlift—Shafer Butte—up the face of the mountain.

- Bogus Basin's Passport Program was awarded the "Best Program to Grow the Sport to New Participants" by the National Ski Area's Association.
- Morris D. Huffman, former U.S. Forest Service District Ranger, was hired by Boise and Gem Counties to work on business retention, expansion, and diversification projects. The Rural Economic Development Professionals Program, associated with the Idaho Department of Commerce, provides funding for the position.

Elmore County

- The Pilot Truck Stop was rebuilt after a fire destroyed the building in July 2000. The Great American Restaurant, which also burnt, was not rebuilt; instead an Arby's restaurant was built along with a convenience store and fueling stations.
- Three Springs, Inc. (TSI) constructed a 60-bed residential correctional facility for the treatment of juvenile sex offenders. The facility is located on Industrial Way in Mountain Home and employs approximately 55 people.
- Business happenings in Elmore County in 2001 include the openings of Renaissance Consignment and Curl-Up-N-Dye Salon, Enchanted Memories, Integrity Auto Sales, Cornerstone Dental, Curves for Women, Liercke Real Estate, and Jennie's Fashion Boutique, all in Mountain Home. A new Idaho Power gas turbine plant is operational in Elmore County, and the South Fork Boise River Senior Center opened, which will benefit Pine/Featherville residents. Businesses that closed this year include King's Discount Department Store, Deb's Shoe Store, Hub Clothiers, and Flower's Galore.
- The \$35 million expansion of the Saylor Creek training range at Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB) was completed in 2001. The expansion included setting up some of the 30-emitter sites (pads for parking trucks equipped to emit signals that simulate enemy radar), and the construction of a facsimile of a factory.
- The U.S. Air Force (USAF) released an announcement in mid-October outlining its plans for a realignment of MHAFB, which will result in a pure fighter wing. Within the next 1½ years, the B-1s and the KC-135Rs will be reassigned to other bases. The USAF will increase the number of maintenance personnel and expand the current Control and Reporting Element to a Control and Reporting Center. This will create a shifting of personnel but no reduction in the number of those stationed at MHAFB. Between 500 and 700 persons could be affected by the changes. The USAF also announced that MHAFB has been identified as a likely location for F-22 Rap-tor fighters in the future.

Gem County

- Boise Cascade permanently laid off 275 employees at the Emmett plant in June. The company cited federal roadless and wilderness protection policies as primary reasons federal timber has become less available over the last five years, which has decreased the available lumber supply, and sales have gone down. Positions will be lost in plywood, lumber, dry kiln, planers, premier lumber, and the co-generation plant. The laminated beam operation will continue to operate in Emmett with 33 employees.
- The Gem County District Courtroom completed a remodeling project that included a new sound system, new carpeting, and the relocation of the jury box. Individual spectator chairs in the galley were replaced with bench seating.
- A modular jail arrived in Gem County in mid-April and was placed near the existing Gem County Jail. The facility will provide beds for up to 12 minimum-security inmates and should eliminate the need for the county to send inmates to facilities in other counties, saving Gem County money.
- The following additional business developments occurred in Gem County in 2001: the Gem County Fair Office completed its \$4,800 remodeling project; the Post Office moved to its new home on Main Street; work on the Gem Island Sports Complex continued with fields ready for play and the first phase of a recreational trail complete; the Gem County Recreation District (GCRD) and the YMCA continued the discussion of a possible partnership that would bring the YMCA to Gem County; Edward Jones Investments opened a new branch; and Six Rivers Counseling opened a facility in Emmett.

Owyhee County

- The Marsing Resource Center (MRC) was selected as a site for a 4-H computer lab. The University of Idaho Cooperative Extension System 4-H program and the MRC worked together to obtain the grant bringing the Power Up computer lab to the MRC. The lab consists of 10-15 Gateway computers, a printer, and network equipment. Software, technical support, AOL accounts, and training also are part of the package. Two site staff were trained on the Power Up Internet curriculum in Washington D.C. Power Up is a charitable, not-for-profit Delaware corporation that is organized and operated for the purpose of assisting underserved youth to obtain skills, experiences, and resources required to succeed in the digital age.

Payette County

- Construction started in June on the \$15 million, 69,500-square-foot expansion on the Holy Rosary

Medical Center. The new expansion will provide extra rooms and new facilities for patients. When the project is finished, about 7,500-square-feet of the existing hospital will be remodeled, and there will be six operating rooms instead of four.

- Business developments in Payette County include the openings of Pine Pride, Farmers and Merchants State Bank in Fruitland, the Hot Spot Restaurant in Payette, the Barber and Style Shop in Payette, Fruitland Produce Barn, Daily Buzz in New Plymouth, and the construction of a new greenhouse at Howard's Landscape and Nursery in Fruitland. The Independent-Enterprise newspaper moved to a new location that is nearly three times larger than the previous building. Woodgrain Millwork in Fruitland permanently laid off 40 employees in early 2001.
- In July, Payette County was granted funding to hire an economic development coordinator. The position is funded through the Rural Economic Development Professional Outreach Program, and grant monies total \$30,000. The county will contribute an additional \$20,000 to the arrangement. The total money will be used to help support the coordinator with office space, furniture, and supplies. The coordinator will work with Payette County and its cities to market its economic potential.

Valley County

- Boise Cascade permanently closed its sawmill located in Cascade. The closure affected nearly 80 employees who worked at the sawmill. A steady decline in federal timber sales forced the closure of the Cascade sawmill, and company officials said that federal timber policies were to blame.
- Shore Lodge in McCall officially changed its name to Manchester on Payette Lake, and the opening was further postponed until June 2002. Manchester on Payette Lake was sold to Randall R. Perkins, a San Diego resident, for \$13 million in December 2001. The new owner plans to return the name of the lodge to Shore Lodge and hopes to open the lodge and the golf course by June 2002.
- Construction started on the Holiday Inn Express at the south end of McCall. The three-story motel is located on Idaho Highway 55, across from the Pancake House. When completed, it will include 125 guest rooms, several meeting rooms, a swimming pool, and a spa. It will be the largest motel in McCall.
- The Valley County Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously approved a scaled-back development application for the proposed WestRock Lake Cascade four-season resort near Donnelley. The State Land Board still needs to approve the proposal before any development can occur; a meeting with

the Land Board is scheduled for February 7, 2002 in Boise.

- Other business developments in Valley County in 2001 include the openings of the Wild Bear Pub & Grub in McCall, Forest Concepts in the Cascade industrial park, and Epicurean, a new restaurant in Hotel McCall in December. The Pancake House started construction on a new building adjacent to its current location and will open in 2002.

Washington County

- Construction was completed on the Vendome Events Center in Weiser. The \$1.2 million facility held a grand opening in late November, and the Weiser Memorial Hospital Foundation's annual Festival of Trees was featured at the grand opening celebration. The Weiser Chamber of Commerce moved to its new office at the Vendome Events Center in December.
- The Idaho Travel Council awarded the Weiser Chamber of Commerce a \$4,000 matching grant that was used towards the production of new brochures showcasing Washington County, primarily Weiser and surrounding areas.
- Other business developments in Washington County in 2001 include the opening of the financial consulting firm Salomon Smith Barney, and the closing of Stark's Eclectic Gifts in Weiser. Dr. Paul Smith and his wife, Mary Ann, opened a surgical practice in Weiser at Memorial Hospital's Medical Specialty Clinic.
- The State of Idaho approved an application submitted by Washington and Adams Counties to fund a new economic development specialist position serving the two-county region. The two counties will receive between \$20,000 and \$45,000 to fund a full-time economic development specialist who will work on business retention, expansion, and diversification projects for both counties. Lisa Wolfe was named the Enterprise Facilitator for the Adams-Washington County Region. Lisa will assist entrepreneurs in the two counties with free and confidential business management coaching.

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